

The EMS Impact Prize (2021)

Rules

1. Prizes will be awarded to individuals, teams or partnerships whose work in pure mathematics, applied mathematics, mathematical physics or statistics has had outstanding, demonstrable impact or influence in fields beyond the mathematical sciences.
2. Normally, the EMS Impact Prize will be awarded biennially, but an award may be withheld if no eligible nominations of sufficient merit have been received.
3. The prize will be £750.
4. In order to be eligible for the prize at least one nominee in a team must have made a substantial contribution to the mathematical sciences research cited in the nomination while a student or staff member at a Scottish university during the 10 years prior to the deadline for nominations.
5. A candidate (or member of a nominated team) cannot be (on the date of the deadline for nominations) a trustee of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society nor have previously been awarded an EMS Impact Prize.
6. The prize(s) will be awarded by the Society's General Committee, which shall set up a Nominations Committee and a Prize Committee to advise it. The Nominations Committee is responsible for ensuring that no strong candidate or team is overlooked.
7. The Convener of the Prize Committee shall normally be the President. Its members will normally be chosen from Scottish Universities, with due consideration being made for academic breadth, geographical spread, gender balance, and other aspects of equality, diversity and inclusion. No nominee (or member of a nominated team) may serve on the Prize Committee. Its membership will only be finalised after the deadline for nominations.
8. The General Committee may waive any of the above rules in special circumstances.

Conventions

1. As a first step, all members of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society are invited to make confidential nominations for the prize accompanied by a short (approx. 300 words) supporting statement. The statement should both give a succinct summary of the relevant work of the individual (or team as appropriate) in mathematical sciences and indicate how this work has impacted or influenced fields outside the mathematical sciences. All forms of impact or influence can be rewarded by the prize, including:

- changing the thinking in another discipline – through the use of research in mathematical sciences to underpin fundamental advances in any discipline beyond the mathematical sciences;
- promoting mathematics in society and inspiring the next generation of mathematical scientists;
- economic impacts, impact on quality-of-life, impact on policy and professional practice;
- leading in the clear communication of complex ideas/data to the media and/or the general public;
- any other form of demonstrable impact or influence beyond the mathematical sciences.

The relationship between the mathematical sciences research and the impact described in the nomination will vary from nomination to nomination. In some cases the former may be a single paper in mathematical sciences that has significantly influenced work in another discipline. In nominations based on achievements in outreach and public engagement, for example, the mathematical sciences research may take the form of a body of work. The significance of the impact and influence outside mathematical sciences will be the principal criterion used for the award of the prize. Account will also be taken of the novelty of the case in order to reward those who have pioneered new domains of influence for the mathematical sciences.

2. After the deadline for nominations the President will form a Prize Committee. The members of the Prize Committee will not be nominees for the prize. They will normally be drawn from Scottish universities and include mathematical scientists as well as representatives from other disciplines.
3. Those making nominations are asked to assist in obtaining up-to-date curricula vitae for their nominees and submitting these along with the nomination.
4. The Prize Committee screens the nominations and makes a preliminary list of candidates for further consideration together with names of appropriate external referees. After references are obtained the Prize Committee makes a final recommendation.
5. Exceptionally, it is possible to award two prizes each of the full amount of £750 if the Prize Committee wishes to make such a recommendation.
6. The Society's trustees are the members of its General Committee.
7. When possible, award of the prize(s) is made at the Annual General Meeting.